

**BOROUGH OF ROCKY HILL
COUNCIL MINUTES
JUNE 19, 2006**

The regular meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Rocky Hill was called to order by Mayor George Morren at 7:33 PM. Mayor Morren led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag followed by a moment of silent meditation. Mayor Morren stated that the meeting has been properly advertised in the December 17, 2005, issue of the Somerset Messenger Gazette and is being held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

Roll Call: Mr. Richard Batchelder-present, Mr. Brian Griner-present, Mr. Brad Merritt-present, Ms. Eileen Uhrik, Mr. Jared Witt-present, Mr. Edward Zimmerman-present.

Also present: Borough Clerk Raymond Whitlock, Borough Attorney Albert Cruz

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Minutes – June 5, 2006 – Motion to approve the minutes was made by Merritt with a second by Griner with the following amendment: Page 4 – Recreation Committee Request to hold Park Night – “*Various donations were offered* in support of the event” in lieu of Councilmen Batchelder and Zimmerman offered personal donations...” Motion carried on roll call vote – all ayes.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Courtney White, resident, reported that the July 4th celebration will be held on July 1st from 4:00 to 8:00 PM with the parade beginning at the Fire House. In regard to the previously approved park night to be held on June 23rd, same will be held here at the Borough Hall Park at the request of the band. The July 14th park night is scheduled to be held at Panicaro Park. The musicians for the July 14th event are checking into a generator and temporary shelter. The event will be held at Panicaro Park regardless of whether or not they are able to accommodate the musicians, and the ice cream vendor will be present for sale of ice cream.

Peggy Harris, resident – In response to Ms. Harris’ questions as to why the band will not play at Panicaro Park, Ms. White advised that the musician will not do so due to potential risk to his equipment because of there not being shelter.

Hearing no other comments/questions, the floor was closed to the public.

REPORT ON BIKE RACE – TOM LICKER (EVENT MANAGEMENT GROUP)

Mr. Tom Licker appeared before Mayor and Council per their request. In response to some of the concerns expressed, Mr. Licker advised that adequate insurance has been provided for the event to the Borough’s insurance company and is acceptable as per the correspondence received from A. Theodore Merritt dated June 19, 2006 (copy of letter distributed). He further advised that approvals have also been granted from Franklin Township and Somerset County. Mr. Licker advised that the event (originally scheduled for September 2006) will be postponed until the spring (possibly the third Saturday in May) in order that the event may be fully planned in a professional and timely manner. After much discussion, it was agreed that a subcommittee of Council (Mr. Zimmerman-Buildings and Grounds; Mr. Griner – Public Safety; Ms. Uhrik-Streets and Roads) will meet with Mr. Licker to address the outstanding concerns of Council relative to the event (as detailed at the 6/5/06 meeting of Council) prior to the next meeting of Council at which time the resolution of approval for use of the Borough streets will be considered. If the event is approved, it was agreed that a timetable/checklist report will be provided by Mr. Licker updating Council on the progress of the event.

Public questions/comments:

Peggy Harris, resident, questioned whether the participants in the non-profit committee are aware of what is entailed with the fundraising aspect of the event. Mr. Zimmerman advised that contact was made with representatives of the participants (Fire, Rescue, Library, Community Group) and same were receptive of the idea. Mr. Zimmerman will make contact with the representatives again.

Cliff Moore, resident, suggested some different sponsors that may be approached for donations by the non-profit committee.

Courtney White, resident, was provided with the anticipated schedule of public participation of the event by Mr. Licker.

Peggy Merritt, resident, was provided with the details of the incentive aspect of the race relative to the riders by Mr. Licker.

Hearing no other comments/questions the floor was closed.

STATE POLICE REPORT

Councilman Griner advised that the full-time coverage for the Borough by the NJSP will begin on June 24, 2006, with the presence of a trooper in the Borough from 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM. Mr. Griner will be making contact with the newly appointed commander, Lt. Skelton. An activity report was received and summarized by Councilman Griner. Councilman Zimmerman advised that a quote for the door for the substation has been received same of which will be addressed at a future date.

TREASURER'S REPORT: None presented at this time.

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT: Report for May, 2006 was received and distributed.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS/BILL LIST

Resolution

WHEREAS, the Treasurer has certified that sufficient funds are available to pay said vouchers, BE IT, THEREFORE, RESOLVED, that the following vouchers be approved for payment. Motion to approve the resolution was made by Batchelder with a second by Merritt. Motion carried on roll call vote – all ayes. (See Appendix 1 for Bill List).

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Administration & Records – No report at this time.

Buildings & Grounds – Councilman Zimmerman reported that the benches and tables for the pavilion have been received and assembled. Appreciation was expressed to Bill O'Brien and George White for their assistance; locksmith work has been approved; *a pledge for* donation in the amount of \$5,000 has been received from the Stewart family for VanHorne Park. The Stewarts have requested that a plaque be considered in honor of the donation. Councilman Batchelder requested that consideration be given to having electricity installed at Panicaro Park on a permanent basis which will be helpful in the holding of park nights and the lighting of the Flag. Councilman Zimmerman will obtain quotes for same.

Finance & Insurance – Councilman Batchelder distributed a finance report at the last meeting and an updated report will be provided at the next meeting.

Public Safety & Emergency Services – report provided earlier by Councilman Griner via the State Police report.

Streets & Roads – Storm drain complaint received by Councilwoman Uhrik was referred to the County. It was also reported that Marilyn Crane, representative of the Shade Tree Commission, will be present at the next meeting of Council for report on the Commission's plans.

Water, Sewer & Environmental Protection – Councilman Merritt provided a summary of the May 2006 report as provided by Superintendent Larry Merk.

Council Representative to Planning Board – Councilman Batchelder reported that the June meeting was cancelled and that the Schafer/Pulte application will be heard on 6/29/06.

Council Representative to School Board – Councilman Witt reported that school is out for the summer.

Council Representative to Board of Health – Councilman Merritt advised that residents should be directed to report any ongoing sewer odors to the DEP at 1-877-WARNDEP for future follow-up by the DEP to enforce compliance. Councilman Griner will make contact with the constables to ensure that the Borough's ordinance regarding the overhanging of vegetation is being enforced and Clerk Whitlock will make contact with the County regarding a complaint of poison ivy on the property County property on Crescent Ave.

Zoning Official – Activity Report for May 2006 was provided by Zoning Official Larry Raffaelli (copy on file in Borough Clerk's office) at the last meeting.

Grants Committee – Councilman Griner summarized a list of available grants.

Other – Councilwoman Uhrik questioned whether the policy of turning off cell phones during Council meetings applies to the use of blackberry electronic equipment during Council meetings. Mayor Morren requested that all refrain from using same for communication during Council meetings.

SPECIAL BUSINESS:

Resolution – Renewal of Liquor License – CAJO Enterprises LLC - Attorney Cruz recommended the approval of the resolution authorizing renewal of the liquor license with the contingency that the applicant provide the required tax clearance certificate and background investigation report from the NJSP upon receipt of same. The recommendation is based on the fact that the applicant has submitted an affidavit affirming they have no criminal history, the applicant's attorney has related to Attorney Cruz that the receipt of the tax clearance certificate is imminent, and the license renewal date will expire before the next meeting of Council.

Public questions/comments:

Peg Merritt, resident – In response to Ms. Merritt's questioning regarding the non-presence of the applicant(s), Attorney Cruz advised that appearance by the applicant(s) is optional since there were no written objections received pertaining to the application.

Hearing no other questions, comments, motion was made by Witt with a second by Zimmerman to approve the resolution with the condition that applicant submit the tax clearance certificate and NJSP background report upon immediate receipt of same. Motion carried on roll call vote – all ayes. (Appendix #2)

Resolution – Requesting Approval of Items of Revenue and Appropriation Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 – Motion was made by Merritt with a second by Griner for the approval of the resolution for the insertion of DOT grant monies in the amount of \$70,000, to be used for the Princeton Avenue Sidewalks project. Motion carried on roll call vote – all ayes. (Appendix #3)

Resolution – Award of Contract for Montgomery Avenue Improvements and Princeton Avenue Sidewalks – Motion was made by Batchelder with a second by Merritt for the approval of resolution and award of contract to Jonico Inc., Lambertville, NJ, for the following: Montgomery Ave. Improvements - \$153,300; Princeton Ave. Sidewalks - \$36,330. for a total of \$189,630.00 (\$3,300 to be allocated from the Streets and Roads Budget and remainder of funds to be allocated via grant monies). Roll call: Batchelder-aye, Griner-aye, Merritt-aye, Uhrik-aye, Witt-aye, Zimmerman-aye. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Communications as listed on the agenda were discussed, disseminated and/or ordered filed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Recognition of former Mayor Brian Nolan – Councilman Batchelder advised Mayor Morren that a request was made by a member of the public at the last meeting for some form of recognition to be made for former Mayor Brian Nolan. This suggestion to be handled by Mayor Morren and Councilman Batchelder.

NEW BUSINESS:

Possible Replacement of Copy Machine/Fax Machine – Councilman Batchelder reported that this office equipment is in need of upgrading and quotes are being obtained for the replacement of same. He also advised that he will be purchasing an answering machine for use in Borough Hall until such time as the donated answering system is installed. Councilman Zimmerman advised that receipt of the donated equipment requires authorization through resolution.

Sewer Bill from Montgomery Township – Clerk Whitlock reported on the recently received sewer bill from Montgomery Township for the period October 2004 – September 2005 noting a considerable increase in fees for same. Mayor Morren will follow-up on same.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Peggy Harris, resident – Ms. Harris requested that attention be given to the flag/flagpole in Panicaro Park whereas the flag is getting caught in the trees and a light should be provided for the flag as had been requested in the past. Suggestion was made to have the flag and monument moved forward to alleviate the problem with the trees. Councilman Zimmerman will explore possible donations in aiding in the relocation of the pole and monument and will obtain quotes once again for the lighting aspect of the project. Ms. Harris also expressed concern with the garbage can overflow in the parks. Councilman Zimmerman advised that the emptying of the cans was not included in the contract with the Borough's maintenance company. It was noted that Mrs. Zimmerman has volunteered by emptying the cans at Borough Hall and Clerk Whitlock has volunteered to empty the cans at Panicaro Park. It was suggested that ARC be contacted for possible assistance with this duty. Ms. Harris further expressed concern with the overgrown landscaping in front of Borough Hall. Councilman Zimmerman will contact the Sheriff's Office for volunteer assistance with weeding of the beds noting budget cuts in the Buildings and Grounds budget.

Courtney White, resident – In response to Ms. White's request, Mayor Morren will send an e-mail update regarding the next meeting date concerning the WAWA application in Montgomery Township upon receipt of said information from Montgomery Township.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 PM was made by Batchelder with a second by Witt. All voted in favor of adjournment.

Respectfully submitted:

Donna M. Griffiths
Deputy Clerk